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INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This communication is in response to the Office Action dated 1/28/03, for which a three-month shortened statutory period for response is set for 4/28/03.

Please amend the above-identified application in accordance the directions set

5 forth below. The format of this communication is accordance with the Pre-OG press release titled “Amendments in a Revised Format Now Permitted” (“revised amendment format”), as set forth in the News and Notices section of the official website of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO).

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

10 Please amend the claims of the present application as set forth below. In accordance with the PTO’s revised amendment format, a detailed listing of all claims has been provided. A status identifier is provided for each claim in a parenthetical expression following each claim number. Changes to the claims are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter).

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Claims 1-36 were originally filed. Claims 1-24 were elected in response to a restriction requirement and claims 25-36 were cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 17-20 are canceled.

Claims 37-38 are added.

20 Claims 13-14 are amended without prejudice.

Accordingly, claims 1-16, 21-24, and 37-38 are pending.

1. (Original) A coupling assembly, comprising:

at least one signal carrying component capable of being coupled with a corresponding receptacle; and,

at least one steerable component, at least a portion of which is secured
5 with the signal carrying component, wherein a non-secured portion of the steerable component can be manipulated by a user from a first disposition generally adjacent a portion of the signal carrying component to a second non-adjacent disposition for steering the assembly into the receptacle.

10 2. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one signal carrying component comprises at least one electrical conductor.

3. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 2, wherein the at least one electrical conductor comprises a cable.

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4. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 2, wherein the at least one electrical conductor comprises one or more conductive traces.

5. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 2, wherein the at least one electrical conductor comprises a flexible printed circuit.

6. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one steerable component comprises polyester.

7. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one steerable component comprises plastic.

8. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one signal carrying component comprises multiple signal carrying components configured to be coupled with multiple corresponding receptacles.

9. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one steerable component is flat.

10. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 9, wherein the at least one steerable component has a width and is coupled with the signal carrying component along a majority of the width.

5 11. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 10, wherein the at least one signal carrying component has a width, and wherein the width of the signal carrying component is equal to the width of the steerable component.

12. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 11, wherein the width of the steerable component has a rigidity and the width of the signal carrying component has a rigidity, and wherein the rigidity of the steerable component is greater than the rigidity of the signal carrying component.

13. (Currently amended) The coupling assembly of claim 1, wherein the steerable component has a length and a rigidity associated with the length and the signal carrying component has a second length and a second rigidity associated with the second length and wherein the rigidity of the length of the steerable component exceeds the rigidity of the second length of the signal carrying component.

14. (Currently amended) A coupling assembly, comprising:

a signal carrying component comprising at least one conductor and an interface component, wherein the at least one conductor is capable of carrying a signal for provision to an electronic device and is coupled with the interface

5 component, the interface component being configured for receipt in an electronic device receptacle; and,

a steerable component having a secured portion on the signal carrying component and a non-secured portion, the non-secured portion having a first disposition adjacent the signal carrying component and a second disposition

10 spaced away from the signal carrying component, the non-secured portion being configured for user deployment away from the signal carrying component in a manner that permits the interface component to be positioned independently of a position of at least a majority of the at least one conductor, wherein the steerable component is configured with sufficient rigidity to allow a user to push the
15 interface component into the electronic device receptacle by manipulating the non-secured portion.

15. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 14, wherein the signal carrying component comprises a flat cable.

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16. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 14, wherein the signal carrying component comprises a flexible printed circuit.

17. (Cancelled)

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18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

 10 20. (Original)

21. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 14, wherein the at least one conductor comprises at least one trace.

15 22. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 14, wherein the steerable component is mounted to the interface component.

23. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 14, wherein the steerable component comprises polyester.

24. (Original) The coupling assembly of claim 14, wherein the steerable
5 component comprises plastic.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

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27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

15 29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

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32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

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35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

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10 37. (New) A coupling assembly, comprising:

a signal carrying component comprising at least one conductor and an interface component, wherein the at least one conductor is capable of carrying a signal for provision to an electronic device and is coupled with the interface component, the interface component being configured for receipt in an electronic device receptacle; and,

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a steerable component having a secured portion on the signal carrying component and a non-secured portion, the non-secured portion having a first disposition adjacent the signal carrying component and a second disposition spaced away from the signal carrying component, the non-secured portion being configured for user deployment away from the signal carrying component in a manner that permits the interface component to be positioned independently of a

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position of at least a majority of the at least one conductor and is configured to allow a user to insert the interface component into a receptacle positioned in a confined volume by pushing on the non-secured portion.

5 38. (New) A coupling assembly, comprising:

at least one signal carrying component capable of being coupled with a corresponding receptacle positioned in a confined space; and,

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10 at least one steerable component, at least a portion of which is secured with the signal carrying component, wherein a non-secured portion of the steerable component can be manipulated by a user from a first disposition generally adjacent a portion of the signal carrying component to a second non-adjacent disposition for steering the assembly into the receptacle, wherein the steerable component is configured so that the non-secured portion extends beyond the confined space containing the receptacle when the signal carrying
15 component is coupled with the receptacle.
